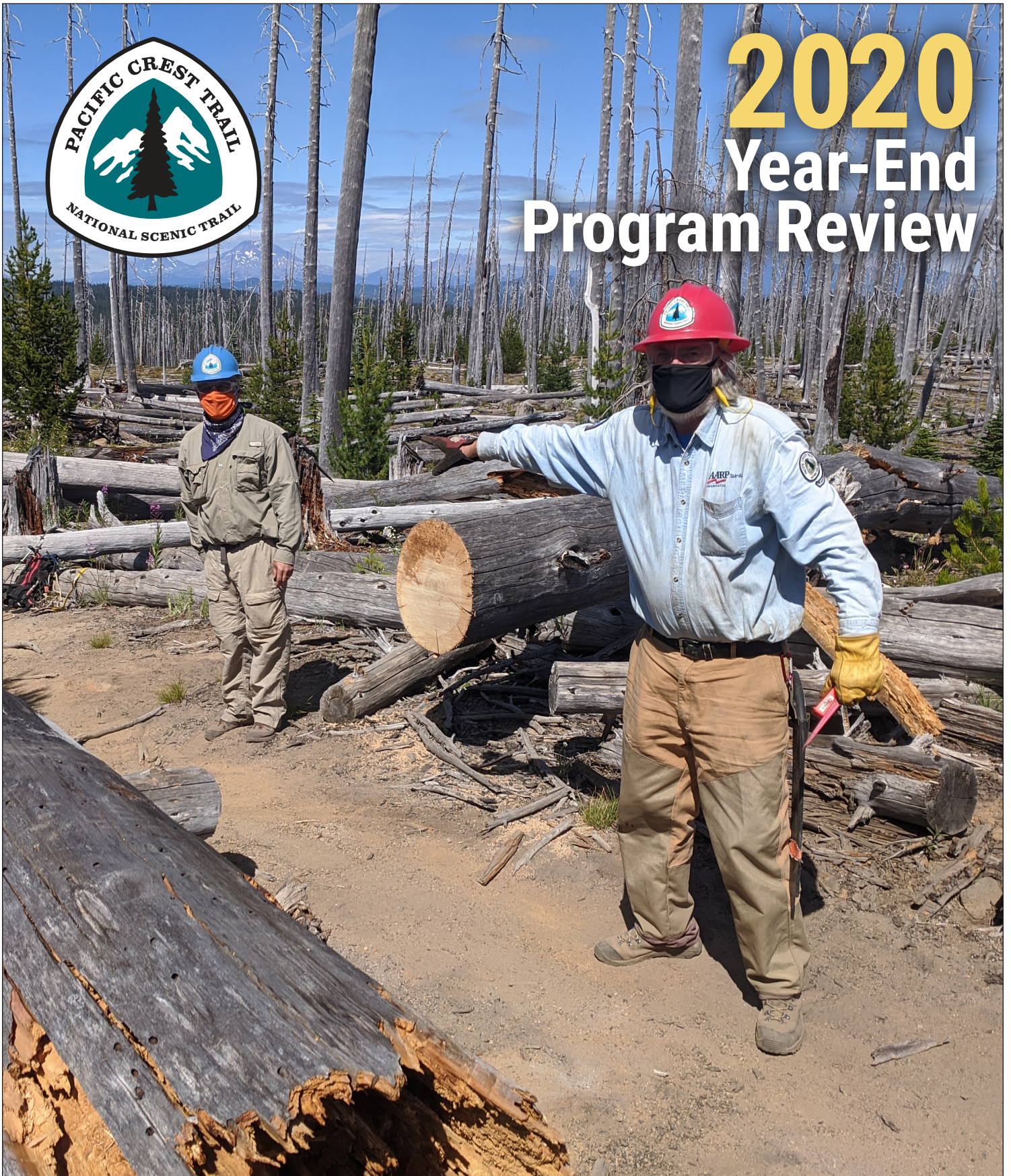




# 2020 Year-End Program Review







## Pacific Crest Trail Association

**Along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, 2020 was a challenging year for the Pacific Crest Trail Association and its partners.**

### **Accomplishments focused on:**

1. Adapting to the challenges of 2020
2. Promoting shared stewardship
3. Delivering benefits to the public
4. Providing information to the public
5. Applying and advancing knowledge
6. Strengthening communities
7. Sustaining our nation's forests and enhancing recreation opportunities

*(Photos showing people in close proximity without masks were taken pre-pandemic.)*

# 1 Adapting to the Challenges of 2020

Last year brought challenges to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail's management and maintenance never experienced before. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Pacific Crest Trail Association and land management partners to change how we carried out our business of protecting, promoting, and preserving the PCT. Beyond the challenges caused by the pandemic, the Pacific States experienced an unprecedented wildfire season, many of which impacted the PCT.



## COVID-19 Pandemic and Volunteer Programs

The COVID-19 pandemic had its most significant impact on the PCTA's volunteer programs. PCTA's dedicated volunteers accomplish the majority of the PCT's annual maintenance. They diligently work to clear downed logs, cut back brush, repair the trail tread, and help to keep the PCT open and safe for travelers. These efforts were seriously hampered in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Every year, the PCTA's number one goal in trail maintenance is to keep our volunteers safe and healthy. 2020 was no different, with the volunteers' health and well-being the number one priority during the pandemic. In March 2020, the volunteer programs were initially paused for overall safety and learning as the pandemic unfolded. PCTA collaborated with other conservation, trail groups and agency partners to develop and implement a re-engagement plan that incorporated enhanced safety protocols and policies to account for COVID-19. The re-engagement process was complex as each agency unit had different protocols and decisions relating to volunteer engagement; county and state rules added complexity layers.

The community-based volunteer programs adapted to the new safety protocols, including working in smaller groups with additional safety

equipment. Most backcountry and pack-in projects were canceled, with a limited number of hearty volunteers undertaking overnight projects. Many volunteers canceled their projects due to potential COVID-19-related impacts on the older, more vulnerable population, making up a large portion of our volunteers. The result is that the PCT received significantly less maintenance overall.

## Long-Distance Trail Use

Long-distance trail use on the PCT was significantly reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the March 2020 stay-at-home orders went into effect, the Forest Service directed the PCTA to cease issuing additional PCT long-distance permits. Although additional permits were not released after that time, thru-hike permits had already been issued. PCTA published a series of messages on our website and social media platforms encouraging people to postpone their long-distance trips. Instead, PCTA encouraged shorter, local trips that would allow people to reduce contact with others and minimize the potential spread of COVID-19.

There were far fewer agency and PCTA staff and volunteers on the PCT to make observations and collect data. Based on the reported information, it's estimated that about 20% of PCT long-distance permit holders utilized their permits from either the Southern or Northern Termini. In contrast, day-use at PCT trailheads and on public lands, in general, seemed to increase considerably from previous years. The shift in use reflects people taking shorter, more local trips in response to COVID-19.

## Wildfires

The unprecedented fire season had an immense impact on the PCT. At the high point of the fire season, upwards of 1,800 miles of the PCT were closed to public access. At least 90 miles of PCT were within fire perimeters and burned at varying intensities. Even where the PCT wasn't closed to public access, most of the Trail couldn't be enjoyed because air quality levels were so poor and considered "hazardous." PCTA is working closely with agency partners to conduct field visits to assess the damage and formulate reconstruction plans.

Fire closures also forced the widespread cancelation of volunteer activities across California and Oregon. Due to rapidly changing and ever-uncertain fire and smoke conditions, the hard decision was made, for the first time, to shorten the end of the American Conservation Experience corps crew season by two months.



*The Lionshead Fire in the Central Oregon Cascades was one of many wildfires in 2020 that took a heavy toll on lives, lands and property and impacted nearly a hundred miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. Photos by Eleonore Anderson.*

## 2 Promoting Shared Stewardship



The idea of shared stewardship for our National Trails is rooted in the National Trails System Act, which encourages strong public-private partnerships and volunteers to take care of our National Trails. Strengthening and expanding partnerships is crucial to sustaining the PCT for future generations. Every year, the PCTA brings together partners and volunteers with shared values and serves as a liaison between people and our public lands. Volunteers provide dedication, energy, and assistance, ensuring that the PCT provides unparalleled recreation opportunities.

Each year the Corporation for National and Community Service sets a dollar value on volunteer time. This number is based on the average hourly earnings of non-supervisory production workers in the United States.

**According to this value, in 2020, the PCT volunteer community, including non-trail maintenance activities, contributed 29,469 service hours, an in-kind value of \$802,000.**

Citizen stewards and corps crew members performed the hard, physical labor of annual maintenance on 503 miles of the PCT, allowing others to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness while traveling on a safe, passable trail. Stewards cut back overgrown vegetation, cleared fallen logs, constructed rock retaining walls, reconstructed trail tread, and built new trail tread.

Twelve community-based volunteer groups dispersed along the Trail serve as the foundation for PCTA's volunteer programs. PCTA volunteers are a diverse group of all ages and backgrounds and contribute to these communities' cultural transformation by bridging the gap between the great outdoors and those who are disconnected. In addition to community-based volunteers, we partner with conservation and volunteer nonprofits and community groups along the Trail to ensure the PCT is maintained, protected, and enjoyed. In a typical year, many nonprofit and community organizations the PCTA works with provide local volunteer trail maintenance opportunities, group hikes, and youth education.

# 2020 Trail Accomplishments

**27,141**  
hours of volunteer  
trail maintenance  
or reconstruction

**503**  
miles of trail  
maintained

**16,311** square feet of log  
and stone cribbing  
constructed

**7** miles of trail  
reconstructed or  
constructed

**212** feet of turnpike  
or puncheon  
constructed

## Trail Skills College Online

The PCTA's training program, Trail Skills College, ensures volunteers build the skills necessary to be safe, successful, and efficient trail stewards. The Trail Skills College program was started with an REI grant in collaboration with nonprofit and agency partners. It uses a modular course curriculum taught at multiple events along the PCT.

PCTA staff, nonprofit partners, agency staff, and most notably, volunteers serve as instructors to new and returning volunteers eager to increase their trail maintenance knowledge and skills. The PCT typically serves as the classroom for the courses, and topics range from brushing and scouting to tread reconstruction and leading crews. Trail Skills College also typically includes saw training and certification courses conducted by volunteer saw instructors. This unique program is one of the first in the country authorized by the Forest Service and has served as a model for other trail organizations.

However, in-person activities were limited in 2020 due to COVID-19, when PCTA made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person Trail Skills College events for the year. Instead, PCTA developed online Trail Skills College courses to increase trail maintenance knowledge and engage new volunteers from a distance. PCTA staff and volunteers converted the existing Trail Skills College course curriculums into an engaging online platform. Two two-hour courses were offered regularly throughout the fall and winter: Online Intro to Trail Maintenance and Online Intro to Trail Scouting.



*PCTA's Trail Operations staff engaged and educated volunteers during the pandemic with Trail Skills College courses adapted to online delivery.*



PCTA continued to promote the PCTA's Tabling Program through online trainings, engaging new and experienced volunteers. These monthly trainings focused on preparing volunteers to engage the public and provide information on the PCT and PCTA once we can attend in-person events again.

Throughout the years and in partnership with the Forest Service, PCTA has developed safety protocols to ensure volunteers are operating to the safest extent possible. New and enhanced safety protocols were developed in 2020 in response to the pandemic.

Trail maintenance activities were limited to experienced volunteers to reduce the need for close physical instruction. Before any on-trail activity, volunteers reviewed the CDC guidelines regarding underlying conditions and completed the CDC's COVID-19 self-evaluation. They also reviewed and signed the Forest Service Risk Assessment for Risks Associated with the Spread of COVID-19 specific to Volunteer Programs and PCTA's COVID-19 Release of Liability Form. Volunteers gathered by phone or videoconference to discuss project plans, safety protocols and conduct tailgate safety sessions to review job hazard analyses and an emergency action plan.

## 2020 PCTA Sponsored Trail Skills College Trainings

Number of online trail skills training events hosted	7
Number of volunteers attending online trail skills trainings	237
Number of other volunteer trainings hosted	2
Number of volunteers attending other trainings	24

These phone and online gatherings reduced the time volunteers needed to gather in close physical proximity before volunteer projects. Volunteers submitted trailhead communication plans to local agency units, ensuring partners could communicate with crews in the field and were prepared for incidents. PCTA provided volunteers with additional PPE, including hand and equipment sanitizer, handwashing stations, and cloth face coverings. Volunteers carried first aid kits with injury instructions and the required injury report forms.

The PCTA regularly collects feedback from volunteers, and in 2020 continued to find that volunteers found the work environment safe and enjoyable. Volunteers gave favorable feedback when asked if COVID protocols and procedures were clear; if COVID safety protocols were followed; and if they received ample training and safety information from the trail crew leader to feel prepared for their role.

## 2020 Partner Hours Contributions

3,202

American Conservation  
Experience (ACE)

4,670

Tahoe Rim Trail  
Association

3,615

Washington Trails  
Association

**Total Partner Hours: 11,487**



# Volunteers

## A driving force behind the PCT



# 3 Delivering Benefits to the Public

As the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail travels 2,650 miles from the Mexico-California border to the Washington-Canada border, it offers access to America's outdoors as it connects some of the most scenic and remote lands in the Western United States. The PCT links diverse landscapes from the Mojave Desert to the rugged peaks of California's Sierra Nevada range to the Cascade Range volcanic peaks.

Recreationists from around the world find a unique connection with nature and diverse ecosystems along the PCT as it passes through 48 Congressionally-designated wilderness areas, 25 National Forest units, seven Bureau of Land Management field offices, six National Parks, five California State Park units, five National Monuments and more than 1,500 private properties.

## Southern California: PCT Crest Runners and Southern Terminus Trailhead Host

In 2020, the PCTA partnered with the Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger District, to implement the Crest Runner and Southern Terminus Trailhead Host programs for the sixth consecutive year. These programs have been incredibly effective at making in-person visitor contacts and sharing safe and responsible use trail information to affect trail user behavior to reduce impacts along the PCT. The Crest Runners and Southern Terminus Trailhead Host also collect user data which helps PCTA and the Forest Service better understand visitor use levels and patterns along the first 100 miles of the PCT.



*A Crest Runner checks a water source near the trail at Barrel Springs in Southern California. Crest Runners are an important part of monitoring and communication with hikers on one of the busiest sections of the PCT.*

### Crest Runners

Crest Runners, like wilderness rangers, rove the PCT between the U.S.-Mexico border and Warner Springs during the peak use season between March and May. Unfortunately, the hiking season and the Crest Runner program were significantly affected by COVID-19.

The Crest Runners contacted 160 hikers along the PCT. Of these, 122 were long-distances hikers (intending to hike 500 miles or more), 16 were section hikers, and 22 were day hikers. Contacts and conversations focused on COVID-19 safety, riparian area sensitivity, fire and campfire safety, safety while hiking the PCT, Leave No Trace, campsite selection, and water availability.

As in previous years, campsite inventory assessments were performed at five

locations. Due to the lower use levels, overall, campsites decreased in total size and showed more recovery in 2020. Crest Runners also collected information regarding water caches and removed abandoned water containers at five different sites. Lastly, the Crest Runners removed approximately 35 pounds of trash from along the PCT.

### Southern Terminus Trailhead Host

A volunteer was enlisted to serve as the Southern Terminus Trailhead Host to share safe and responsible use information with PCT users between March and mid-May. PCTA recruited volunteer applicants and provided materials and support for the Trailhead Host. At the same time, the District selected the volunteer for the position and provided daily support for the volunteer. Due to COVID-19, the host's season was significantly abridged and cut short after only 2.5 weeks. At that time, the host had contacted 301 hikers, of which 253 were long-distance hikers, 22 section hikers, and three day-hikers. Based on the host's information, 99% of hikers had obtained a long-distance permit, and 75% of long-distance permit holders complied with the start date on their permit.



Each year PCTA communicates with the trail community through a range of media channels, including a quarterly magazine, monthly e-newsletters to the public and volunteers, social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and through the PCTA website which receives millions of pageviews each year.

## Providing PCT Information to the Public

In addition to its restoration and protection efforts, the PCTA serves as the primary resource and customer service representative for PCT information, connecting people from around the world with one of America's iconic recreation opportunities.

The PCTA employs a full-time Trail Information Manager and a part-time Trail Information Assistant who work with volunteers to act as public resources for PCT information and support the Trail's users.

A crucial part of PCTA's public service is our active customer service program which provides timely direct assistance to tens of thousands of people a year via phone, email, social media and in person. The PCTA assists our land management partners by working across boundaries and providing a single contact for trail-wide customer service inquiries. To do this requires collaborating on messaging, priorities and best practices with agency partners along the PCT.

PCTA also assists the Forest Service and other agencies in issuing interagency permits for trips of 500 miles or more and provides information about permits for all recreation users. Each summer, the PCTA rapidly shares crucial land-use regulations and emergency information, from fire closures to landslides.

## COVID-19 changed everything regarding traveling outdoors in 2020.

PCTA reacted quickly, developing guidance for long-distance travel, local users, and the public as a whole. Working with the Forest Service, PCTA adjusted the permit program, asked people to comply with state and local orders by limiting travel, and increased safe and responsible use education when visitation to public lands greatly increased. As the PCT crosses so many different jurisdictions, interpreting the ever-changing regulations for the public was a critical role. Campgrounds and public lands closed and reopened regularly.

## Communication Channels to Trail Users and the Public

PCTA oversees many sources of PCT information, including a comprehensive website, a blog, electronic newsletters and a quarterly magazine. These publications provide up-to-date and historical information, encouraging the safe use, enjoyment, protection and preservation of the PCT. Timely trail information is also available through PCTA's active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other online forums. PCTA's touch is also seen in numerous blog, newspaper and magazine articles, smartphone applications, map sets, and guidebooks.

In 2020, PCTA's website received 3.6 million pageviews from people all over the world looking to gain information about the PCT. While much of this information focuses on trip planning, current trail conditions and trail information, the PCTA provides a tremendous amount of Leave No Trace education for trail users. The goal is to encourage people to travel responsibly and lightly on the land, thereby reducing human influences on the Trail and protecting it for future travelers. The PCTA also provides trail condition updates, which include trail closures and other relevant user information via their website.

### 2020 Communication Services to the Public and Trail Users

Number of emails responded to	3,626
Number of phone calls responded to	1,845
Number of social media requests responded to	260
Number of media requests responded to	29
Number of PCT brochures distributed	2,080
Number of issues of the <i>PCT Communicator</i> magazine distributed	44,000
Number of wilderness permits issued for PCT travel in excess of 500 miles	4,098
Number of visits to PCTA's website	1,383,645



Volunteers with PCTA's Tabling Program provide information to the public at events like the American Long-Distance Hiking Association-West's annual Ruck.

# 4 Applying and Advancing Knowledge

PCTA, in partnership with the Forest Service and National Park Service, continued research efforts to understand better the number of hikers and horseback riders along the PCT. As the PCT has become more popular, understanding use levels and patterns has become increasingly essential to help make informed decisions to protect the trail experience and the natural resources along the Trail for future generations.

Partnerships continued with researchers Dr. Jeremy Wimpey from Applied Trails Research and Dr. Nathan Reigner from Pennsylvania State University to analyze and model data collected by PCTA and local land management units to better understand use levels and travel patterns.

Analysis of field data helps to understand better permit utilization, travel patterns, attrition rates and paints a picture of use patterns along the PCT. With this information, managers can take management actions to protect the PCT experience, wilderness character, and resources along the Trail.

## Central California: Kennedy Meadows Register and Trail Counters

2020 marked the first complete year PCTA collected information from a new second register location. Kennedy Meadows serves as a significant stop for long-distance hikers, marking the transition between the desert and the Sierra, and is a favorite of day hikers and car campers. Besides being a beloved and well-visited locale, it also marks the beginning of the most regulated and closely monitored PCT section for visitor use management.



As use has increased along the PCT, social and physical impacts have also increased. The increased use has led to a growing interest in understanding user travel patterns by acquiring qualitative and quantitative information about PCT visitors. The aim is to use data to better inform future management decisions by understanding user type (day, thru, section, equestrian, etc.), when a user passes a given location, permit origins, travel routes, etc. Collaborating with agency partners from the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests, the register is regularly checked; it's common to find agency staff interacting with the public at this register location. The new register replaced an old social register tattered from many seasons of frequent use, sunny days, and snowy winters.

Like most good quality data collection efforts, information is gathered from numerous sources aside from the new register. PCTA's Southern Sierra Region also has two infrared trail counters, capturing when a warm-blooded object crosses the counter's beam in its hidden location. Numbers derived from these counters are cross-referenced with register data, in-person counts, and mail surveys – painting a more in-depth picture of use across the Trail.

*A new trail register at Kennedy Meadows Campground on the Inyo National Forest.*

# 5 Strengthening Communities

Countless communities along the PCT benefit from the Trail. For many communities, the PCT provides residents access to enjoy public lands and healthy exercise and physical challenge opportunities. For other communities, the PCT is essential for their local economies, especially during the summer season when PCT travelers purchase food and goods for resupplies or stay in local hotels and dine in town. Some communities have a strong and growing cadre of volunteers who steward the PCT and help preserve our public lands for all to enjoy. The PCT is often a source of pride for local communities, especially each summer, as people from all over the country and the world pass through on the PCT.

## Washington: North 350 Blades Volunteer Program

South of Interstate 90, the PCT contours north out of the Norse Peak Wilderness along forested ridgelines. Hikers and equestrians who explore this corner of the Washington Cascades cross a checkerboard of late 20th-century timber harvests. The PCT winds through numerous sections of land that were formerly owned by private timber companies and now belong to the Forest Service. As a result, the PCT jumps across old logging roads and weaves through dense stands of young trees. When the Trail cuts into these sections of regrowth, the iconic footpath is vigorously challenged by the aspirations of brushy vegetation.

The North 350 Blades, one of PCTA's 12 community-based groups, formed to address the maintenance needs of the PCT in northern Washington. Ten years ago, they held their first PCT volunteer project south of Snoqualmie Pass near Windy Pass. Working in collaboration with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and PCTA staff, group founders including Barry Teschlog, Jim and Dona Miller, Eric Lee, and Linda Rostad began cutting through dense woody brush and repairing drainage features. Along with others recruited along the way, these dedicated volunteers are entering their second decade of focused trail stewardship on the Cle Elum Ranger District.



*For the past ten years, volunteers with the PCTA's North 350 Blades have maintained the PCT in Northern Washington. This section is near Snowshoe Butte on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Before brushing on their project, the PCT was clogged with woody vegetation (left image). As a result of their continued stewardship, the public can more easily enjoy travel along the PCT (right image).*

The North 350 Blades' annual work logging out, brushing, and reconstructing damaged tread has allowed the Forest Service's local trail crew to focus their efforts elsewhere. Volunteers have handled all the PCT maintenance on the southern half of the Cle Elum Ranger District for the last several years. By adopting a section of Trail and returning to the same area each year, PCTA volunteers have built local project expertise and a strong sense of personal investment.

PCTA's experienced volunteer community, made up of groups like the North 350 Blades, proved highly adaptable in 2020. In many areas, local volunteers worked with PCTA staff to replan trail maintenance projects and adjust to social distance guidelines. Projects were often small, sometimes limited to a single household unit, but many dedicated volunteers managed to get out on the Trail and care for their piece of the PCT despite the challenges. For the tenth summer in a row, the North 350 Blades bounced along old logging roads to reach remote PCT trailheads. Returning to pieces of the PCT they may have personally cleared eight or nine years ago, volunteers fired up brush cutters and trimmed back encroaching vegetation. It is hard work but brushing the PCT south of Interstate 90 did provide a measure of normalcy.



## 6 Sustaining Our Nation's Forests and Enhancing Recreation Opportunities

One of PCTA's highest priorities is to ensure that the PCT provides world-class recreation experiences for those who seek out the Trail. Whether out for a day or embarking on a thru-hike, the PCT should provide opportunities for experiencing closeness with nature, tranquility, travel through rugged and scenic lands, and personal challenge for those who choose. For this to happen, the PCT needs to be maintained for foot and horse travel, an overarching goal of PCTA's volunteer maintenance program. However, wildfires, floods, wind events, significant erosion, and extreme weather events degrade or destroy the PCT and infrastructure such as bridges or retaining walls, making the Trail more challenging to travel. PCTA's Regional Representatives and volunteers have intimate local knowledge of the PCT through trail surveys and prioritize maintenance needs.

### Oregon: Fremont-Winema and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests

A crew of young adults from the American Conservation Experience corps crew program took two week-long trips in the backcountry of the Sky Lakes Wilderness on the Fremont-Winema and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests. The crew, led by a Pacific Crest Trail Association seasonal Trail Crew Technical Advisor, was packed into the backcountry by volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon's High Desert Trail Riders, Klamath Falls, Oregon. The project consisted of rehabilitating a badly eroded section of the PCT, nearly 10 miles into the backcountry.

The crew spent two week-long trips stabilizing tread, constructing drainage and erosion mitigation structures, and reestablishing the trail tread's full bench cut on the rocky north-facing slopes of Devils Peak. The crew of seven young adults accomplished the much-needed work through the successful partnership between multiple not-for-profits and federal agency partners.



*PCT bridge on the Eldorado National Forest near Echo Lakes. The bridge was installed in October prior to the winter weather conditions. Additional work was done to armor and protect the concrete bridge abutments and banks of the creek.*

## California: Eldorado National Forest & Lassen National Forest

The Eldorado and Lassen National Forests successfully installed much-anticipated bridges on the PCT to enhance visitor safety and user experience.

The Eldorado National Forest, PCTA, and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association have been collaborating for more than a decade to provide a safe and reasonable creek crossing at the outlet of Echo Lakes. Up to this point, the creek crossing has always been a safety concern and very dangerous for hikers and equestrians.



*Chips Creek bridge on the Lassen National Forest. The bridge abutments were constructed in the fall of 2019. Helicopters were unavailable for most of 2020 due to the unprecedented wildfire season and the bridge was eventually transported and installed in late October. The bridge will be completely open and accessible to hikers and equestrians in the spring of 2021.*

The creek's water flow is managed by the Eldorado Irrigation District, which served as the contracting agency for the bridge construction. The collaborative work resulted in installing a much-needed bridge that now provides a safe creek crossing while enhancing the visitor experience and increasing access and recreation opportunities to the area.

Similarly, the Lassen National Forest also completed a significant bridge installation across Chips Creek, north of Belden. The Lassen National Forest, PCTA, and the Back Country Horsemen of California agreed that a new bridge was the best course of action to ensure trail user safety. PCTA collaborated with the Lassen National Forest throughout the planning process and provided safe trail access and information to the public during the installation process.

The bridge location is within an Inventoried Roadless Area, requiring the bridge to be constructed at a separate staging area and transported by helicopter to the installation site. The Back Country Horsemen of California provided a donation for the bridge and continued trail reconstruction efforts planned for 2021 and 2022. The bridge is a structural development and resource crucial to public safety and provides a better experience and recreation opportunity for those seeking it.

## **Northern California: The Intermountain Recreation Collaborative, Lassen National Forest**

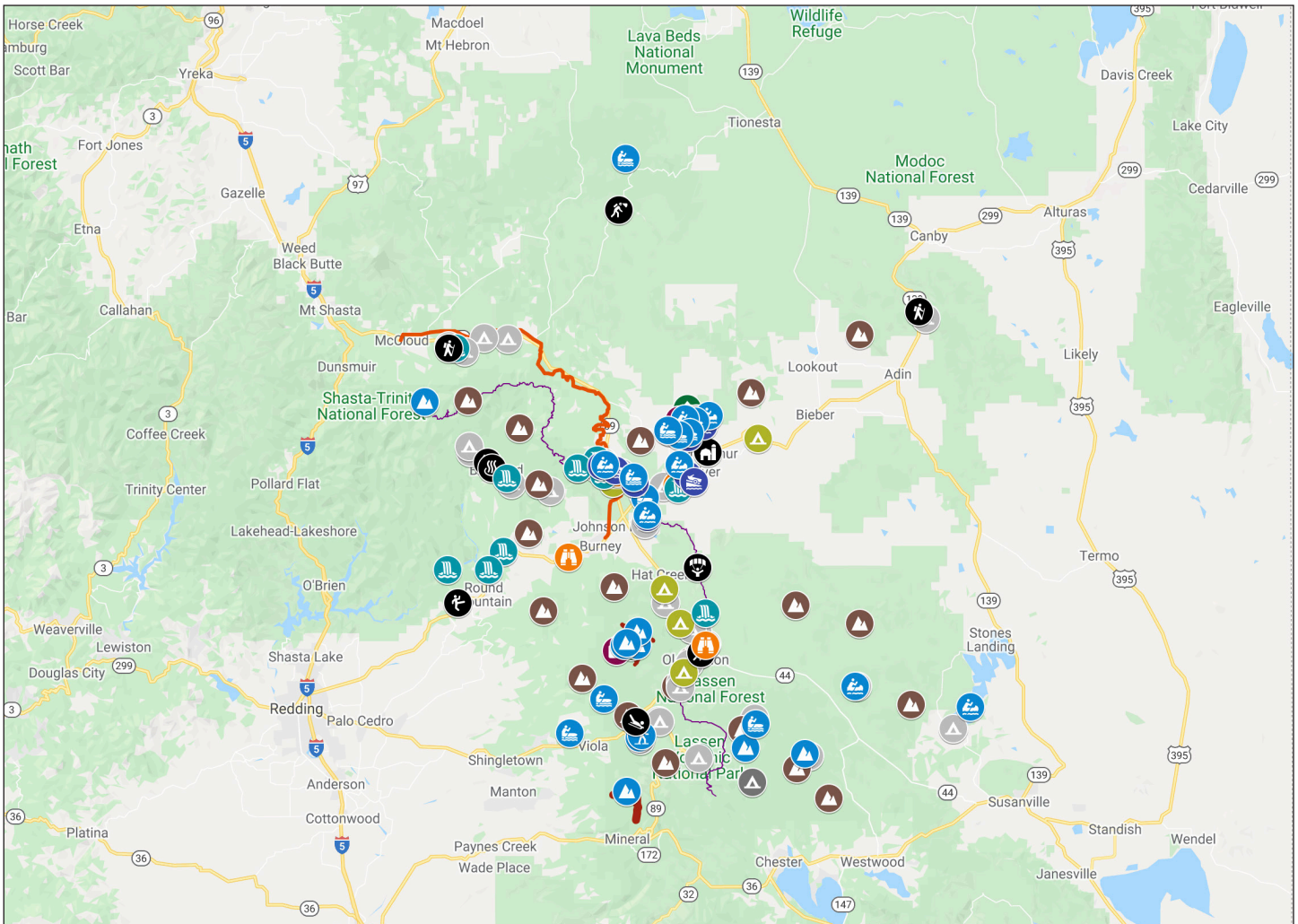
More than 50 miles of the PCT is located along Hat Creek and the Hat Creek Rim. The Hat Creek Recreation Area, administered and managed by the Lassen National Forest, lies between Lassen Volcanic National Park to the south and Burney Falls State Park to the north. The local communities include Old Station, Hat Creek, Cassel, Fall River Mills, and Burney – all of which are rural California communities. The area has the potential to offer a multitude of outdoor recreation opportunities and enhancements in addition to those currently available.



*A view of Lassen Peak and Lassen National Forest (above), and the view from the Hat Creek Rim (below), both in the Northern California area that is the focus of the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative.*



## Intermountain Recreation Collaborative Project Area (Northern California)



In response to the increased visitation and the demands of the local population, the Intermountain Recreation Collaborative was formed in 2019 with the common goal of working together to improve recreation opportunities in eastern Shasta County and strengthen the local economy and community identity. The collaborative consists of more than 30 federal and state land management agencies, tribes, businesses, community members, and non-governmental organizations, such as PCTA.



The Intermountain Recreation Collaborative is funded through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy under Proposition 68 (CA). It is managed by a local consulting firm, Symbiotic Restoration. Identified projects include trail connections within the Hat Creek Recreation Area, off-highway vehicle area improvements and development, increased parking and access to Hat Creek, additions to city and county parks, interpretive signage, and trailhead development throughout Lassen National Forest. The Intermountain Recreation Collaborative will begin project implementation in 2021.



# 2020 Accomplishments Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

## Connecting People to the Outdoors Through Volunteer Stewardship

### Providing volunteer support to organize and execute projects

PCTA staff hours spent on volunteer programs .....	9,603
New trainings posted online .....	22
New volunteer projects posted online.....	40
Volunteer project email announcements sent.....	103
New volunteers .....	217
Returning volunteers .....	615
Tool caches.....	47
Inventory of tools and equipment.....	<i>Separate report submitted</i>
Weeks JHA is posted online .....	52
High school programs contacted .....	4
University programs contacted.....	0

### Reporting on all volunteer and corps crew service hours and accomplishments

Volunteer hours for financial match.....	<i>Separate report submitted</i>
Volunteer hours for trail maintenance activities .....	27,141
Volunteer hours for land protection activities .....	87
Volunteer hours for administrative activities.....	453
Volunteer hours for governance and committee activities.....	806
Volunteer hours for communications and publications.....	221
Number of volunteer hours for trail protection.....	110
Number of volunteer hours for visitor use management.....	124





### Volunteers reflecting age, gender, and ethnicity:

Age	
Under 18	12
18-54	234
55+	332
Unknown	236
Declined to Answer	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>832</b>

Ethnicity	
White (non-Hispanic)	504
Black (non-Hispanic)	4
Hispanic	24
Native American/ Alaskan Native	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	18
Unknown	225
Declined to Answer	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>832</b>

Gender	
Male	410
Female	235
Unknown	185
Declined to Answer	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>832</b>

PCTA-affiliated youth corps volunteer hours .....	3,202
PCTA-affiliated high school volunteer hours .....	0
Miles of trail maintained .....	503
Miles reconstructed/constructed.....	7
Trailhead kiosks constructed.....	0
Square feet of log cribbing constructed.....	0
Square feet of stone cribbing constructed .....	16,311
Bridges constructed (greater than 20' long, 5' off the deck) .....	0
Feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed .....	212



### Sponsor volunteer training opportunities

PCTA staff hours spent on trainings .....	1,067
Volunteers attending Basic or Wilderness First Aid .....	24
Basic or Wilderness First Aid trainings hosted .....	2
Volunteers attending crosscut and/or chain saw training .....	0
Crosscut and/or chain saw trainings hosted .....	0
Number of volunteers attending other trail skills training .....	237
Other trail skills trainings hosted .....	7

### Coordinate with the PCT Program Manager and agency units

Agency partner meetings to coordinate field program of work:

	Local	Unit	Regional/ Trailwide	Total
U.S. Forest Service	97	25	18	140
Bureau of Land Management	5	2	3	10
National Park Service	1	5	1	7
Other	1	0	0	1
Total	104	32	22	158

### Provide Trail and Land Management Support

PCTA staff hours spent on trail planning and protection .....	2,240
PCTA staff hours spent providing technical assistance .....	1,487

### Increase Access to and Protection of the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Qualities of the PCT by Conserving Open Space through Land Acquisition

Number of PCTA staff hours spent on coordinating land acquisition projects .....	2,002
Number of acres acquired .....	15

## Benefits to the Public & Trail Communities

### Respond to inquiries from the public and trail users regarding the PCT

Emails responded to.....	3,626
Phone calls responded to .....	1,845
Social media requests responded to.....	260
Media requests responded to .....	29

### Publish a periodic magazine

Copies of the <i>PCT Communicator</i> magazine distributed.....	44,000
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### Maintain a website

Website sessions .....	1,383,645
Updates to the Trail Conditions pages.....	43

### Promote PCT at events

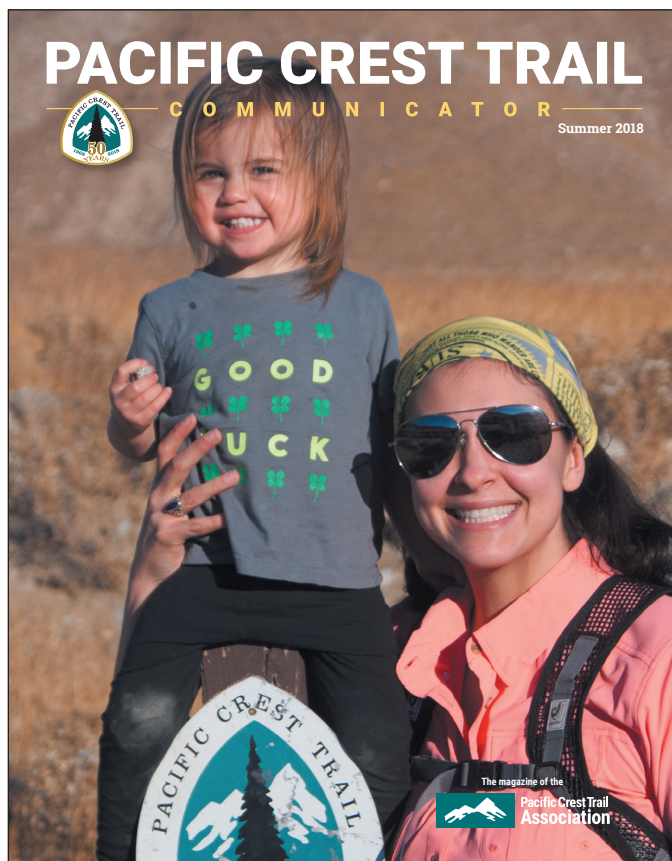
Conferences and outreach events attended.....	12
PCTA staff hours spent planning or participating in events.....	156
PCTA volunteer hours spent planning or participating in events .....	127

### Issue long distance permits

Wilderness permits issued for travel in excess of 500 miles .....	4,098
Mt. Whitney climbing permits issued.....	0

### Distribute PCT brochures

Map brochures distributed.....	2,080
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# 2020 Volunteer & Corps Crew Hours

## Maintenance Program Hours

### Southern California Region

PCTA Trail Gorillas.....	4,402
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	684

### Southern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience .....	110
Can Do Crew .....	55
PCTA Trail Gorillas.....	64
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	114

### Northern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience .....	1,980
PCTA Carsonora Trail Crew.....	258
PCTA Pounder's Promise .....	894
Tahoe Rim Trail Association .....	4,670
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	133

### Northern CA/Southern OR Region

American Conservation Experience .....	1,112
PCTA Southern Oregon Rockers.....	216
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	215

### Columbia Cascades Region

PCTA Mid-Oregon Volunteers .....	1,437
PCTA Mt. Hood Chapter.....	4,225
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	89

### North Cascades Region

PCTA North 350 Blades .....	2,052
PCTA White Pass Chapter.....	182
Washington Trails Association .....	3,615
Miscellaneous Region Projects .....	15

### Trailwide Miscellaneous

**Total PCT Maintenance Hours.....27,144**

## Non-Maintenance Programs Hours

Administrative.....	452
Advocacy.....	401
Governance .....	806
Land Protection .....	87
Outreach.....	127
Publications .....	221
Trail Protection .....	110
Visitor Use Management.....	124

**Total Non-Maintenance Hours.....2,329**

**Total Service Hours.....29,469**

